

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

"It is not so much the content of what one says as the way in which one says it. However important the thing you say, what's the good of it if not heard or, being heard, not felt." ~ Sylvia Ashton-Warner

Friday, February 20, 2009

Wabash Valley is welcoming back Superintendent Bruce Lemmon. Mr. Lemmon briefly served as facility head nearly a decade ago and is doing double duty, continuing service as Superintendent of the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Also, congratulations to Alan Finnan as he becomes Operational Director of Mental Health!

Staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility received a generous donation of clothing from the Honorable Members of the Indiana General Assembly this week. State Representative Peggy Welch assisted with the effort. The clothing went to PREF's "Dress for Success" clothing bank, where gently-used clothing is distributed to PREF residents.



Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center has collected 23 boxes of clothing donated by residents, which will be donated to My Sister's Place. The organization provides immediate help for homeless neighbors in the form of clean, dry, warm clothing for both men and women.

The PEN Products Board of Directors recently met at the Indiana Government Center. The Board provides insight for current operations and future direction. The meeting closed with testimonials from successful ex-offenders.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held a Spring Retreat at Indiana State University. The objective of the retreat was to afford executive and on-line staff an opportunity to collectively develop procedures to improve programs, operation of the facility, and quality of life for the offender population.

Over 130 staff from WCC, ISP and Camp Summit attended a "Karaoke Challenge" off-grounds this week. 18 staff stepped up to the mike to represent their facility. Training Officer Richard Nalls from ISP took first place, with Correctional Officer Cara Harton of WCC as runner-up. Everyone who participated had fun as DOC coworkers.

The Indiana chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) recently met to brainstorm and discuss community activities for 2009. NABCJ's chief concerns are the general welfare of and influence of African Americans, relating to the administration of justice, and justice-related needs and practices.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Boy Scout Troop 1888, sponsored by the Recreation Department, will be participating in the Pop Tab Recycling Project sponsored by the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana.

Angela Baskin from Surprise, Arizona gave an uplifting presentation on Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration to 82 women at the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center. Lt. Michelle Brown presented her with an certificate of appreciation, noting that the residents could relate to her testimony.

A Black History Program was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week. Attorney Judith Hawley Conley and Marion County Superior Court Judge David A. Shaheed were the featured speakers for the event.

Madison Correctional Facility hosted a community advisory board meeting this week. Jefferson County Prosecutor Chad Lewis made a presentation to the group about crime and sentencing rates. Executive Director Stan Knight also attended.

The Employee Appreciation Committee at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted a Sunrise Breakfast where staff purchased a hot breakfast on their way into the facility. Proceeds will fund employee activities.

Correctional Industrial Facility recognized volunteers in the chapel with refreshments and a "Meet and Greet" this week. 13 volunteers attended the ceremony, along with the Chaplains and Superintendent Tom Hanlon.

Correctional Medical Services at the Indiana State Prison passed their Pharmacy Audit this week with a score of 100%.

Miami Correctional Facility had 5 staff members take the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics recently, raising more than \$1,200 and receiving an award for "The Most Money raised by a Company." Those participating included Douglas Nelson, Ernest Parkin, Christopher Ertel, Constance Iddings, and Daniel Madson.

The Indiana Women's Prison Sheltered Workshop offenders and staff assembled 500 brochures with clipboards for the Indiana State Department of Health. The brochures are for the Coach's Asthma Clipboard Program.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner